

## Message Text

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53

ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 SAJ-01 H-02

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NSCE-00 USIE-00 RSR-01 ACDA-19 AECE-00 OMB-01 /144 W  
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O R 201152 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8123

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

ALL MBFR CAPITALS 273

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDEL SALT TWO II

USMISSION GENEVA

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2203

GENEVA FOR DISTO

NATO TAKE AS IMMEDIATE

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR - REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP CHAIRMAN

REF: VIENNA 2194, 2195

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SYG BY CHAIRMAN  
OF THE AD HOC GROUP ( PORTUGAL - CONDE), WHICH WE UNDERSTAND  
WILL BE SUBJECT OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION MARCH 21. ( REPORT  
IS ALSO BEING TRANSMITTED BY PORTUGUESE EMBASSY TO NATO I. S.)

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CHAIRMAN' S REPORT FOR THE WEEK 11 TH TO 17 TH MARCH , 1973

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USUAL PRACTICE OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED AS THE CHAIRMAN' S OWN ACCOUNT OF THE WEEK' S PROCEEDINGS. IN THIS CASE, IT WAS EXAMINED IN THE AD HOC GROUP BEFORE SUBMISSION.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE COUNCIL' S GUIDANCE ON THE ABEYANCE FORMULA FOR THE STATUS OF HUNGARY, THE AD HOC GROUP INVITED THE NETHERLANDS AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERTAKE A PROBING MISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS GUIDANCE.

3. THREE MEETINGS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROBING OPERATION HAVE SO FAR TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIED EMISSARIES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOVIET UNION ( KHLESTOV, KVITSINSKIY AND TIMERBAYEV) AND HUNGARY ( USTOP, AND ON ONE OCCASION PETRAN). AFTER EACH MEETING WITH THE WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES, THE AD HOC GROUP ASSESSED THE DISCUSSIONS AND ELABORATED AN AGREED ALLIED POSITION TO BE PRESENTED BY ITS TWO EMISSARIES DURING THEIR NEXT CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

4. THE FIRST MEETING, HELD ON 13 TH MARCH AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, PROVED INCONCLUSIVE. THE WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES, IN REPLY TO THE CONCEPTS ADVANCED ON THE NATO ABEYANCE PROPOSAL, STATED THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PROGRESS WAS INDICATED IN THE ALLIED PRESENTATION BUT IN FACT THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT A NEUTRAL ONE. MANY UNCLEAR DETAILS REQUIRED CLARIFICATION. THE MAIN DEFECT, THE OTHER SIDE SAID, WAS THAT THE ALLIED POSITION FAILED TO RESOLVE THE STATUS OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION AND MERELY CARRIED OVER THIS ISSUE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE PARTICIPATION QUESTION SHOULD BE FULLY RESOLVED DURING THE PRESENT TALKS. FURTHERMORE, THEY CLAIMED THAT THE ALLIED PROPOSAL DISCRIMINATED AGAINST HUNGARY. IT WAS THEIR COLLECTIVE VIEW THAT THE STATUS OF HUNGARY SHOULD BE EQUATED WITH THAT OF ITALY. ON ALL OCCASIONS IT WAS EMPHATICALLY STATED BY THE ALLIES THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ITALY OR OTHER FLANK COUNTRIES BECOMING A DIRECT PARTICIPANT.

5. THE NEXT DAY, A SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY. IT WAS WIDE- RANGING IN CHARACTER, BUT AGAIN PROVED INCONCLUSIVE. THE DISCUSSIONS TURNED UP SOME NEW THOUGHTS  
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ON BOTH SIDES, FOR EXAMPLE ON FORMULAE FOR EXPRESSING DIVERGENT

POSITIONS ON PARTICIPATION, BUT NONE WERE PURSUED FAR ENOUGH TO GIVE A CLEAR IMPRESSION OF THEIR DETAILS OR PERMIT SERIOUS ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. THIS CAN PROBABLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT THE WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES, AS THEY THEMSELVES INDICATED, HAD NOT YET RECEIVED NEW INSTRUCTIONS.

6. THE THIRD MEETING, WHICH WAS HELD AT THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY ON 16 TH MARCH, ALSO TURNED OUT TO BE INCONCLUSIVE. BOTH PARTIES REPEATED THE VARIOUS FORMULAE DESIGNED TO EXPRESS THEIR BASIC POSITIONS WITHOUT ANY SHIFT YET BEING INDICATED ON THE WARSAW PACT SIDE. HOWEVER, IT APPEARED FROM THE OTHER SIDE'S INTEREST IN CONTINUING DISCUSSION THAT THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET TAKEN FINAL POSITIONS. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING IN THE AD HOC GROUP THAT THE INITIATION AND PURSUIT OF THIS DIALOGUE IS USEFUL AND COULD CONCEIVABLY LEAD IN DUE COURSE TO MORE SPECIFIC RESULTS. A FOURTH MEETING IN THIS SERIES IS SCHEDULED FOR 20 TH MARCH.

7. DURING THE WEEK VARIOUS BILATERAL CONTACTS TOOK PLACE. ON ONE OCCASION THE POLES INDICATED THAT THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT OF AGENDA TOPICS, ADDING THAT THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AMONG WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES RAISED IN A VAGUE AND TENTATIVE WAY THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE IN THE PENDING NEGOTIATIONS. THE ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT IT WAS BEYOND THEIR COMPETENCE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. THE PRESENT DISCUSSION DEALT ONLY WITH THE STATUS OF THE 19 PARTICIPANTS NOW IN VIENNA AND IN FACT ONLY WITH THE STATUS OF HUNGARY. THE NEGATIVE POSITION OF FRANCE WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENT CONSULTATIONS WAS WELL KNOWN. END TEXT HUMES

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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